
Coleogeton (Potamogetonaceae), a New Genus of Pondweeds

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ABSTRACT. *Potamogeton* subg. *Coleogeton* is elevated to generic level. A combination of morphological and anatomical features readily distinguishes the new genus *Coleogeton* from both *Groenlandia* and *Potamogeton*, the two other genera recognized in the Potamogetonaceae. All new combinations for taxa that occur in North America are proposed for use in the *Flora of North America*. These new combinations include *Coleogeton striatus*, *C. pectinatus*, *C. filiformis*, *C. filiformis* subsp. *alpinus*, *C. filiformis* subsp. *occidentalis*, and *C. vaginatus*.

Coleogeton (Reichenbach) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, stat. nov. Based on: *Potamogeton* L. [subg.] *Coleogeton* Reichenbach, *Icones fl. Germ. et Helv.* VII. 10. 1845. TYPE: *Coleogeton pectinatus* (L.) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes (basonym: *Potamogeton pectinatus* L.).

Aquatic herbs propagated by seeds, tubers, or rhizomes; stems terete, nodes without oil glands; turions absent. Leaves submersed, alternate, opaque, sessile, linear, canaliculate, turgid, subulate to obtuse at apex, acute at base, margins entire, veins 1–5; stipules tubular, sheathing stem and young inflorescences connate or convolute, adnate to base of blades for $\frac{2}{3}$ or more of stipule length. Inflorescence a capitate or cylindrical spike with 1–20 whorls of flowers, compact or moniliform, with 2–4 flowers in each whorl, submersed; peduncles flexible. Flowers with perianth of 4 free, rounded, short-clawed segments; androecium of 4 stamens, filaments adnate to the perianth claw, anthers 2-locular; gynoecium of 4 carpels. Fruit abaxially rounded, turgid, beaked; embryo with less than one full coil. Chromosome number: $x = 13$.

Two genera, *Potamogeton* L. and *Groenlandia* J. Gay, in addition to *Coleogeton* comprise the Pot-

amogetonaceae. Traditional taxonomic treatments of the Potamogetonaceae have virtually always recognized the distinctness of *Coleogeton* species by consistently segregating them as either a separate subgenus (e.g., *Coleogeton*; Raunkiær, 1896) or at least section (e.g., *Coleophylli*; Ascherson & Graebner, 1907). Vegetatively, *Coleogeton* resembles *Potamogeton* by its alternate leaves, and differs from *Groenlandia*, which has opposite leaves. The stipules of *Coleogeton* are adnate to the blade for at least two-thirds the length of the stipule. The few species of *Potamogeton* with fused stipules are adnate less than half the length of the stipule, mostly less than 4 mm. Submersed leaves of both *Potamogeton* and *Groenlandia* are translucent, flat, and without grooves or channels, whereas those of *Coleogeton* are opaque, channeled, and turgid.

Coleogeton can further be separated from *Potamogeton* and *Groenlandia* by its flexible peduncle and elongate stigmatic papillae. Hagström (1916) ascribed the latter feature as a mechanism that prevents hybridization between *Coleogeton* and *Potamogeton* species. Thus, even Hagström, who recognized a multitude of *Potamogeton* hybrids, could produce no evidence of hybridization between these genera. Preston (1995) recently affirmed that no hybrids are known to occur between *Potamogeton* and *Coleogeton*. Peduncles of both *Potamogeton* and *Groenlandia* also possess a hypodermis, which is usually absent in *Coleogeton* (Tomlinson, 1982). The flexible peduncle of *Coleogeton* results from an evident endodermis of "U-cells" (Ogden, 1974), which is lacking in both *Potamogeton* and *Groenlandia*. The peduncle bends at the water surface, keeping the spike in the water. Pollination in *Coleogeton* is apparently autogamous and can involve flowers that occur either underwater or at the water surface (Guo & Cook, 1989). The absence of an endodermis in *Potamogeton* and *Groenlandia* results in a stiff pe-

duncle that protrudes above the water surface and pushes the spike into the air to facilitate aerial pollination. Both *Potamogeton* and *Coleogeton* differ from *Groenlandia* by having curved embryos but not the highly coiled cotyledons of the latter, a feature that also occurs in *Zannichellia* L. (Tomlinson, 1982).

Pollen ultrastructural features further distinguish the three genera of Potamogetonaceae. *Coleogeton* and *Groenlandia* each possess a pollen type that is different from any of those found in *Potamogeton* (Sorsa, 1988). The pollen morphology of *Groenlandia* is intermediate between *Coleogeton* and certain subsections of *Potamogeton* (Sorsa, 1988).

All members of *Coleogeton* for which chromosome counts have been published possess the chromosome number of $2n = 78$; however, this group exhibits an impressive aneuploid range including counts of $2n = 42, 66, 70, 71$, and every number from $2n = 73-88$ (Les & Philbrick, 1993). *Coleogeton* has an essentially cosmopolitan distribution, mostly due to the widespread occurrence of *Coleogeton pectinatus* (L.) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes (St. John, 1916, as *Potamogeton pectinatus*).

- 1. *Coleogeton striatus*** (Ruíz & Pavón) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton striatus* Ruíz & Pavón, Fl. Peruv 1: 70. 1798. SYNTYPES: "Habitat in aquis vivis Chancay, et Limae Provinciarum; abunde in Lurin lacubus et paludibus." TYPE: Peru. Lima: Chancay near Torreblanca, 24 July 1778, H. Ruíz & J. Pavón s.n. (lectotype, selected here, MA; isolectotype, P).

Potamogeton pectinatus L. var. (?) *latifolius* J. W. Robbins, in S. Watson, Bot. King's Explor. 338. 1871. Syn. nov. *Potamogeton latifolius* (J. W. Robbins) Morong, Mem. Torr. Bot. Club 3: 52. 1893. TYPE: U.S.A. Nevada: Humboldt River below Humboldt Lake, W. W. Bailey 1142 (holotype, GH).

- 2. *Coleogeton pectinatus*** (L.) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton pectinatus* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 127. 1753. TYPE: Austria. *Celsius* 29 (lectotype, designated by Haynes (1986), UPS, Burser Herb. X: 124).

- 3. *Coleogeton filiformis*** (Persoon) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton filiformis* Persoon, Syn. Pl. 1: 152. 1805. TYPE: Denmark. Sjælland: frequent in lakes, C. F. Schumacher s.n. (holotype, P? not seen).

- 3a. *Coleogeton filiformis*** (Persoon) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes subsp. **alpinus** (Blytt) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. et stat. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton marinus* f. *alpinus* Blytt, Norges Flora 1: 370. 1861. *Potamogeton filiformis* Persoon var. β *alpinus* (Blytt) Ascherson & P. Graebner, Synop. mitteleurop. Fl. I: 353. 1897. SYNTYPES: Norway. Dovre: Johnsvandet near Trondheim, in Lake Vola, M. N. Blytt s.n. (syntype, O not seen); Dovre: Hviddalsvandene, Lindblom s.n. (syntype, Karlstad?, probably destroyed by fire in 1865); Laurgaard: Selsvand, N. G. Moe s.n. (syntype, C not seen); Lomsvand, N. G. Moe s.n. (syntype, C not seen).

Potamogeton borealis Rafinesque, Med. Repos., Hexade 2, 5: 354. 1808. Syn. nov. *Potamogeton marinum*? Michaux, auct. non L., Fl. Bor.-Amer. 1: 102. 1803. *Potamogeton filiformis* Persoon var. *borealis* (Rafinesque) H. St. John, Rhodora 18: 134. 1916. TYPE: Canada. St. Lawrence River, A. Michaux s.n. (holotype, P not seen).

Potamogeton marinus L. var. *macounii* Morong ex Macoun, Cat. Can. Pl. 4: 88. 1888. Syn. nov. *Potamogeton filiformis* Persoon var. *macounii* (Morong ex Macoun) Morong, Mem. Torr. Bot. Club 3(2): 50. 1893. TYPE: Canada. Alberta: Old Wives Lakes, and in Crawling Valley, S of the Hand Hills. 22 Aug. 1879, John Macoun s.n. (holotype, CAN not seen).

- 3b. *Coleogeton filiformis*** (Persoon) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes subsp. **occidentalis** (J. W. Robbins) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. et stat. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton marinus* L. var. (?) *occidentalis* J. W. Robbins, in S. Watson, Bot. King's Explor. 339. 1871. *Potamogeton filiformis* Persoon var. *occidentalis* (J. W. Robbins) Morong, Mem. Torr. Bot. Club 3(2): 51. 1893. *Potamogeton interior* Rydberg, Fl. Colorado p. 13. 1906. TYPE: U.S.A. Nevada: Ruby Lake, S. Watson 1143 (holotype, US; isotypes, GH, YU not seen).

Additional specimens. U.S.A. **Utah:** Uintas, head of Bear River, S. Watson 1144 (paratype, US; isoparatypes, GH, YU not seen). **Nevada:** Truckee Pass, S. Watson 1145 (paratype, US; isoparatypes, GH, YU not seen); brackish waters of the Lower Humboldt, S. Watson 1146 (paratype, US not seen).

- 4. *Coleogeton vaginatus*** (N. Turczaninow) D. H. Les & R. R. Haynes, comb. nov. Basionym: *Potamogeton vaginatus* N. Turczaninow, Fl. Baicalensi-Dahurica 2: 162. 1856. TYPE: Russia. Siberia: in lacubus subsalsis, prope Selenginenses [subsalsine lake near Selenginsk S of Lake Baikal], N. Turczaninow s.n. (holotype, L not seen).

Potamogeton moniliformis H. St. John, Rhodora 18: 130. 1916. Syn. nov. TYPE: Canada. Saskatchewan: between Cumberland House and Hudson Bay, Aug., *T. Drummond s.n.* (holotype, GH).

Acknowledgments. We appreciate the assistance of J. Cargill, C. B. Hellquist, L. J. Mehrhoff, and R. Russell for helping us to locate types and type literature, and H. Balslev, A. Damman, and B. Øllgaard for helping us with translations.

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